

in England and other countries, notwithstanding Mr. Pitman's prohibition.

BRITISH.

A Chicago correspondent in London, says of English editors:—"They are great chinnners about the dignity of journalism, and they don't take into consideration the possibility that a paper which is all dignity gets to be almighty stupid. There are a few journals in London which are beginning to demonstrate the fact that brevity is the most popular thing after all." There is certainly more brevity than dignity in the phrases "great chinnners" and "almighty stupid."

The first-personal editor of London *Truth* finds fault with the word "unwisdom" as "wholly un-English." It would probably be difficult for Mr. Labouchere to explain precisely what he means here by "un-English." If he means that it is not justified by good usage, he is greatly mistaken as to the facts. If he means that it serves no useful purpose in the language, he is deficient in a knowledge of synonyms. If he means that it violates by its composition any canon of English etymology, he *ipso facto* shows that he has not seen how the word is really made up. "Unwisdom" is not the noun "wisdom" with the adverbial prefix "un" added; it is the adjective "unwise" with the suffix "dom" appended. The word is both legitimate and useful, and it is mere pedantry to say of a word of which this is true that it is "un-English."—*Toronto Globe*.

JOTTINGS FROM OVER THE WATER.

Mr. G. E. Wainwright, a pupil of Mr. F. Pitman's, has been appointed head-teacher of phonography in the Young Men's Christian Association of London. This is another proof of Mr. Pitman's success as a teacher of phonography.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Bee, who was for fifty years one of the reporters in the gallery. The deceased retired into private life a few years ago, but he was seized a short time since with a fit of paralysis from which he never recovered. He had reached the ripe old age of seventy-nine years.

Mr. Withers, the renowned teacher and lecturer of phonography, has found it necessary to sever his connection with the Liverpool Young Men's Christian Association, on account of his services not being adequately recompensed. Mr. Withers is a tried and expert teacher, and the loss rather rests with the association than with Mr. Withers.

On the occasion of the presentation to Mr. T. A. Reed of a volume signed by all the most distinguished professors of phonography throughout the world, by the Phonetic Shorthand Writers' Association, London, Mr. Reed took the opportunity of delivering an admira-

ble address on phraseology, of which I see a verbatim report in the *Shorthand Magazine* for January.

Phonographic magazines have lately been on the increase. The *Shorthand World*, a new phonographic paper from Ireland is a very wild production; the *Phonographic Miscellany* is another new magazine in Pitman's system. The *Phonographic Magazine* and the *Phonographic Meteor* have both issued new series for the present year.

News reaches us from Sydney, N.S.W., of a new shorthand writers' association about to be started. The first meeting was a decided success, many having to go away not being able to find standing room. Mr. Jacob Pitman, brother of the inventor, was the leading star present. A good deal of business was got through, and as many as sixty-six names were handed in for intending membership. Let us wish them prosperity in their new undertaking.

Phonography is making rapid strides amongst the railway companies in Manchester. Mr. Henry Pitman, in writing to the *Phonetic Journal*, says:—"Since that time (referring to the time when Sir Ed. Watkin was the first to discover the value of phonography in railway work, and engaged Mr. Henry Pitman to teach some fifty clerks), I have taught several hundred youthful penmen in the service of the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire railway company. Sir Ed. Watkin once said, when distributing some phonographic prizes, 'During the last few years I have assisted in finding employment for at least fifty young men who have become proficient writers of Mr. Pitman's system of phonography.' It is very gratifying indeed to see phonography making such headway amongst the railway companies. No doubt the time is not far distant when phonography will be indispensable in every railway company's office."

In the annual address presented to the members of the Phonetic Society, Mr. Isaac Pitman says, "There are about two thousand members of the two societies instituted in this country for the carrying out of a spelling reform, namely, 'The Phonetic Society' and the 'English Spelling Reform Association.' If only one in four of these will send a contribution—a letter on the reform, an interesting paragraph, or a piece of news—to some newspaper in the first style of the spelling reform, and keep it up, every week, we shall in a short time hear no more objections to phonetic spelling." In his concluding remarks we find the following:—"Let us labor for the dissemination of phonography in the schools and young men's associations, for the introduction of phonetic reading into the infant and elementary schools, and for the extension of phonetic spelling by the old alphabet in the newspapers, magazines, and correspondence, and our reward will be great."